

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05635 051426Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /071 W  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
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AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 5635

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UNGA, KU  
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON KUWAITI FON MIN'S UNGA SPEECH

REF: (A) USUN 3494 (NOTAL), (B) SECTO 10031 (NOTAL).

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD'S OCT. 4 UNGA SPEECH WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY STRIDENT AND POLEMICAL, COUCHED IN TERMS RARELY HEARD FROM TOP GOK OFFICIALS HERE IN KUWAIT. NOR WAS IT IN KEEPING WITH THE NORMAL MODERATE AND RELATIVELY REASONABLE ARAB POINTS OF VIEW GENERALLY PUT FORWARD BY SABAH AL-AHMAD IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR. AN ANALYSIS OF THIS CONTRAST IN ATTITUDE AND STYLE AS REFLECTED IN FON MIN'S UNGA SPEECH FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

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2. THIRD WORLD ASPECT. A REVIEW OF THE EXCERPTS OF FON MIN SABAH AL-AHMAD'S SPEECH CONTAINED REF A SUGGESTS THAT HE WAS ORATING LARGELY TO CONFIRM KUWAITI CREDENTIALS IN THE THIRD WORLD, A JOB WHICH THE KUWAITIS HAVE TO WORK AT CONSTANTLY BECAUSE OF THEIR EMBARRASSING WEALTH AND HARD-TO-HIDE CAPITALIST WAYS. HIS ASSERTIONS THAT DETENTE

MIGHT POSE THE THREAT OF "SUPERPOWER HEGEMONEY" OR CREATE "SPHERES OF INFLUENCE" AND THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED STATES ARE STINGY WITH THEIR WEALTH, SLOW TO SHARE TECHNOLOGY AND SEEKING TO MONOPOLIZE THE DEEP SEA BED, REFLECT THIRD WORLD THEMES. WHILE WE HAVE HEARD SOME OF THESE IDEAS FROM KUWAITIS BEFORE, AND WE HAVE OBSERVED KUWAIT FOLLOWING THIRD WORLD LEADERS ON SUCH THEMES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, WE DOUBT THAT THE GOK REALLY FEELS THAT ANY OF THESE ISSUES IS STRONGLY RELATED TO ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS. RATHER, THE KUWAITI FON MIN USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO "PROVE" TO NON-ALIGNED AND THIRD WORLD LISTENERS THAT KUWAIT STANDS WITH THEM.

3. MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. LIKEWISE, SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD'S MENTION OF A NUMBER OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUES WAS FOR THE EARS OF SELECTED AUDIENCES. HIS ASSERTION THAT THE MIDDLE EAST IS "HEADED TOWARD WAR," THAT THE UN SHOULD IMPOSE PUNITIVE SANCTIONS ON ISRAEL, AND THAT TAZOE IN ANY MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, WERE PITCHED TO THE RADICAL ARABS AND THE PALESTINIANS. THESE ARE THE FORCES WHICH THE GOK SEES AS POTENTIALLY MOST THREATENING AND TO WHICH IT TRIES TO ACCOMODATE BY CAREFULLY BALANCING ITS PRONOUNCEMENTS. THE FON MIN'S HARD LINE REMARKS ARE PARTICULARLY STARK IN VIEW OF THE US-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT OF OCT. 1 AND HIS OWN REMARKS TO ASST. SECRETARY ATHERTON ON SEPT. 27  
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(REF B). (THIS REINFORCES OUR BELIEF THAT THE UNGA REMARKS WERE MADE WITH GENERAL KUWAITI SECURITY INTERESTS IN MIND RATHER THAN AS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD THE PROCESS OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE.) SIMILARLY, THE FON MIN'S ASSERTION ON MANDATORY UN SANCTIONS FOR ISRAEL HAS NOT BEEN HEARD HERE BEFORE, AT LEAST IN RECENT YEARS, AND WE DOUBT THAT THE KUWAITIS WILL PUSH THIS NOW. THE DECLARATION THAT THE MIDDLE EAST IS HEADING TOWARD WAR, HOWEVER, IS A REFLECTION OF A COMMON KUWAITI CONCERN THAT THE US IS EITHER UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO PERSEVERE IN ITS EFFORTS TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

4. DENIGRATING THE UN. AN EXCERPT FROM THE MIDDLE EAST PORTION OF THE SPEECH (PRINTED HERE OCT. 5) CONTAINS, IN ADDITION, A BRIEF ATTACK ON THE UN ITSELF FOR "INABILITY TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTIONS" WHICH HAS CAUSED IT TO LOSE "A GREAT DEAL OF ITS PRESTIGE AND EFFICIENCY" AND RESULTED IN ARAB DISILLUSIONMENT. THIS STRIKES US AS AN UNCHARACTERISTIC, NEEDLESS RESTATEMENT OF THE OBVIOUS WHICH, WHILE IT MAY PLEASE THE PALESTINIANS, FURTHER DENIGRATES THE UN, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN A KUWAITI POSITION OR IN ITS OWN POLICY INTERESTS.

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## Message Attributes

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